

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-9, 18-21 and 24 stand rejected as allegedly being obvious under 35 USC § 103 in view of US Patent No. 6,230,274 (hereafter Stevens) and US Patent No. 6,128,747 (hereafter Thoulon).

Claims 6, 10-17, 22-23 and 25 stand rejected as allegedly being unpatentable over Stevens in view of Thoulon further in view of US Patent No. 6,272,642 (hereafter Pole).

Applicant files herewith a request for a continuing prosecution application (CPA). The CPA removes Stevens as a reference usable in a § 102(e)/103 rejection. Although applicant does not hereby concede that a proper such rejection was levied, this course shall most expeditiously advance prosecution in this case. Additionally, applicant submits herewith references cited in the '274 Stevens patent since the Examiner appears to consider the '274 Stevens patent relevant.

Applicant also submits that the Examiner has not shown proper motivation to combine the other references with Pole or even if combined that a combination with Pole does not meet the limitations of applicants' claims. However, this rejection is also now moot in view applicants' CPA filing.

Conclusion

Applicant has given at least one reason justifying patentability of all claims, and has not attempted to point out the numerous ways to justify patentability of all the different claims.

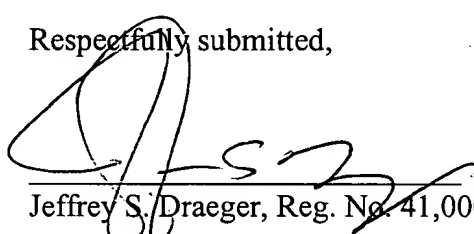
As to any remaining combinations formed by dependent claims and not specifically addressed, applicant does not concede that they are obvious or anticipated. Rather, rejections of these claims are overcome since at least the base combination is not anticipated nor obvious in view of the prior art. Consequently, applicant submits that
5 there also can be no motivation shown in the art to form the additionally limited combination claimed in such dependent claims since the prior art does not anticipate or make obvious the base combination.

Amendments which are not specifically discussed with respect to overcoming a particular art objection have not been made in order to overcome the prior art.

10 Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited at the earliest possible date. If there is a deficiency in fees, please charge our Deposit Acct. No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeffrey S. Draeger, Reg. No. 41,000

20 12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026
(408) 720-8598